

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03198 070646Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 OES-07
OMB-01 PA-01 L-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
/060 W

-----031989 070649Z /13/72

O 061333Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7335

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3198

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - LAST LINE "CREDIBLE" IN LIEU OF
CREDITABLE)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJ: "60" MINUTES TV PROGRAM: ALLEGATIONS ABOUT
INVOLVEMENT OF JULIO CESAR TURBAY IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

REF: BOGOTA 3180

1. I HAVE JUST COME FROM A LUNCHEON WITH MY OWN KITCHEN
CABINET OF JAIME MICHELSEN URIBE, PRESIDENT OF THE BANK
OF COLOMBIA AND ONE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TURBAY'S
PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS, ALVARO GOMEZ HURTADO, DIRECTOR OF
EL SIGLO AND ONE OF CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE BELISARIO BETANCOUR'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS,
AS WELL AS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT ALFREDO ARAUJO GRAU.
IT WAS THEIR VIEW THAT WE HAVE EMERGED FROM THIS MINI-
CRISIS WITH, IF ANYTHING, A NET GAIN. THEY DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S LETTER WOULD
HAVE ANY APPRECIABLE IMPACT ON OUR POLITICAL STANDING.
IT WAS ALSO THEIR VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD BE VERY
NAIVE IF I DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE NARCOTICS ISSUE
WITH RELATION TO COLOMBIA AND SPECIFICALLY WITH
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 03198 070646Z

RELATION TO DR. TURBAY WOULD NOT BE A CONTINUING ISSUE
IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. THEY SEE THE TURBAY-
NARCOTICS ISSUE AS HAVING SURFACED AFTER A LONG
PERIOD OF SUBTERRANEAN GESTATION. THEY WERE DIVIDED
IN THEIR OPINIONS AS TO WHETHER SUCH A PUBLIC AIRING
NOW IS A DISADVANTAGE OR ADVANTAGE FOR TURBAY. THE
TURBAYISTAS THINK IT IS GREAT.

2. I SPOKE TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND BERATED HIM MILDLY FOR VIOLATING THE TERMS OF OUR AGREEMENT. HE WAS MOST APOLOGETIC AND ASSURED ME THAT THIS WOULD AFFECT NEITHER HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM NOR OUR PERSONAL RELATIONS. INTERESTINGLY, AN EXCELLENT SOURCE HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE MINISTER WAS DIRECTED TO DRAFT THE LETTER, ALONG THE LINES AS RECEIVED, BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ HIMSELF. I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT THIS INFORMATION SINCE PRESIDENT LOPEZ INFORMED ME THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS FOR THE FUROR TO DIE DOWN. HOWEVER, MY SOURCE IS A CREDIBLE ONE.
ASENCIO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, CORRUPTION, DRUG TRAFFIC, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, ALLEGATIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOGOTA03198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-0178, D780148-1160
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780487/aaaacvyg.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 729e5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BOGOTA 3180
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3059650
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: \"60\" MINUTES TV PROGRAM: ALLEGATIONS ABOUT INVOLVEMENT OF JULIO CESAR TURBAY IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING
TAGS: SNAR, SOPN, PINT, CO, US, (TURBAY, JULIO CESAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/729e5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014